

SAF/LLZ (Legislative Research Team)

BISHOP, Sanford D., Jr (Democrat)  
Representative, 2nd District, Georgia  
Elected 1992 to 103rd Congress  
Reelected to succeeding Congresses



## BACKGROUND

Born: Mobile, Alabama - 4 February 1947

Home: Albany, Georgia

Marital status: Divorced

Religion: Baptist

Education: Morehouse College, BA, 1968; Emory Univ School of Law, JD, 1971

Military: Army, 1971

Profession: Attorney

Political: Georgia House, 1976-90; Georgia Senate, 1990-92. Defeated Jim Dudley (R) (former Air Force Capt and surgeon) with 64% of the vote, after defeating incumbent Rep Charles Hatcher (D) in the primary. Reelected in 2000 with 54% of the vote and in 2002 with 100%.

Rep Bishop, a liberal, prefers being characterized as "progressive" and sometimes assumes a conservative stance. He is the most conservative member of the Congressional Black Caucus. He is one of only two Black members of the "Blue Dogs."

In the 106<sup>th</sup> Congress, remarked that the School of the Americas now provides the most advanced military human rights training in the world. Discussed a provision in the DoD Auth bill to shut down the Army's School of the Americas at Fort Benning and open a new program with a restructured curriculum and strong independent oversight. Discussed conference concerns over House proposal relative to the NRO's contracting for satellite launch vehicles. Stated that the intelligence bill seeks to redress some of the important problems revealed by the campaign in Kosovo, especially in the area of airborne reconnaissance; expressed concern regarding the impact of launch failures on intelligence activities. Noted that the cmte examined current arrangements by which the Air Force and the NRO procure launch vehicles and manage launch vehicle contracts. Discussing milcon projects at three military installations in his district, commented "we cannot expect to attract qualified recruits and retain them if we provide inadequate facilities for them while they are in....We know that we have the most technologically advanced military in the world. Therefore, we must continue to improve the quality of life for the men and women who are the heart and soul of that military."

In the 107th Congress, became one of three co-chairs of the Democratic Caucus Task Force on Defense and Military Personnel. Worked to ensure that Moody AFB would survive another round of base closures. Drew attention to press accounts that unmanned aerial vehicles performed superbly in Afghanistan. Believed DoD is right to plan on buying many UAV's and equipping them with capable sensors; however, DoD has so far failed to plan to buy the communications and ground processing capacity necessary to support these platforms.

Asserted "this makes no sense and clearly it must be corrected." Noting that the war has also shown that no single sensor system alone is able to perform all of the functions necessary to attack mobile targets, wide area surveillance, target detection, identification, tracking and precise target location, believed that only solution is to work the separate sensors together in a network, but stated that progress at DoD has been slow. Expressed disappointment that the administration failed to request sufficient funds to support the contract award for NIMA's modernization program. Prior to 108<sup>th</sup> Congress represented Moody AFB. At the beginning of the 108<sup>th</sup> Congress came off the Select Intelligence Cmte and appointed to Appropriations.

Additional: Chairman of the Georgia Legislative Black Caucus. Partner, Bishop and Bushner, 1972-1992. Fellow, Earl Warren Legal Training Program of the Legal Defense Fund, 1971.

AF Bases: None

## COMMITTEES

APPROPRIATIONS: Subcs on: Military Construction; VA, HUD, and Independent Agencies